¶ To the moſt Honourable Aſſembly of the Commons Houſe in Parliament.

¶ The Humble petition of Engliſh Marchants, trading into Spaine and France:

Humbly ſheweth,

1 THat the Subſidie due to his Maieſty for one Tunne of French wine is 3. ſhillings being filled at the landing of the ſame.

2 The Engliſh Marchants of London, are now conſtrained to pay for euery Tunne that ſhalbe landed, be the Caske but halfe full, 3. ſhillings Subſidie, 42. ſhillings impoſt, and 15. ſhillings for compoſition of purueyance: which charge of purueyance is payd onely in London port, and began but lately: They alſo are compelled to pay 3. pounds vpon euery two pipes of Conneacke wines, which vſually doe want 7. Ceſternes, and as much for euery 4. Hogsheads of High Countrey wines, when indeed 5. of them filled vp, doe not containe one Tunne of Aſſiſe. The Maligo and Canary Caske are alſo well knowne to be both vndergage.

3 The farme of ſweet wines (which ſometimes allowed 15.) doth now allow 12. in the 100 for leakadge, and all empty or refuſed Caske, euen to marchant ſtrangers, as by an order of the 15. of Nouemb. 1612. appeares: which ſayd ſweet wines do pay no greater duties, and yet are knowne to be much more durable, and of better worth. The vſe of former time hath beene to make ſome reſtitutution or allowance to the Marchant, for impoſt of ſuch eager and decayed wines, as ſhould remaine on his hands vnſold at the yeeres end, which is now nothing at all regarded or conſidered of.

4 The wiſedome of Parliament anno 1. Rich. 3. did ordaine euery Tunne to containe 252. gallons, the butte or pipe 126. and the hogshead 63. according to which meaſure, his Maieſties Officers ſhould receiue ſubſidie and duties, and for more certainty, euery port Towne hath a ſworne Officer, to gadge all wines and oyles, before the Marchants can expoſe them to ſale, vpon paine of forfeiture, that the Subiects might be no more deceiued in gadge of Caske as formerly they were.

5 The Farmers of the Cuſtomes, againſt all Law and equity, doe force the ſayd Merchants, to pay ſubſidie and other duties for full veſſels, though often, vndergadge, vnſeene, or vnladen, when many of them want halfe their wine, and thereby receiue 4 pounds at leaſt, where 3 pound is not truly due, or els will not ſuffer the marchant to land his goods, but ſeiſe them as forfeit for none cuſtome.

6 The Marchants being in great bonds to them for theſe duties, made in his Maieſties name, fearing to offend the Farmers, and to hazard their credits and eſtates by ſudden extents, and willing to preuent the ſpoile and periſhing of their goods, are forced to yeeld, without any penalty or remedy, againſt the Farmers ſo vnkindly and vnreaſonable oppreſſion.

May it therefore pleaſe this moſt high Court, in tender regard of the premiſſes, to take ſuch courſe and order, for eaſe and reliefe of your Suppliants ſayd greeuance, as to your moſt graue wiſedomes, ſhall ſeeme meet and indifferent. And they as in duty ſhall daily pray for the long health and happineſſe of ſo prudent, prouident, and compaſſionate an Aſſemblie.

Signed by William Bond, William Spight, William Palmer, Thomas Boothby, Thomas Frier, Richard Archdal, Henry Kinnerſlie, Iohn Dade, Nicholas Smith, Francis Taylor, Edward Browne, Thomas Wetherall, Conway Manlye, George Benſon, Humfrey Slany, Thomas Bewley, Marmaduke Rawdon, George Langham, Iohn Sherington, Iohn Worſop, Clement Harby, Richard Wiſeman, Francis Samborne, Tho. Walton, Henry Lee, Thomas Hanſon, William Attwill, Henry Lee, Nathaniel Peacocke, Iohn Papril, Iohn Hall, William Bonham, Chriſtopher Barnes, Thomas Eyre, Thomas Hampſon, Richard Barnabee, Francis Haddon, Richard Symmes, George Porter, William Gonnell, William Peacocke, Thomas Slingesbye, Iohn Crabbe, Richard Trauis, Thomas Gilberd, Charles Atye, Roger Iackſon.

¶ *The copy of an Order ſet downe at the Councell Table for Marchant ſtrangers.*

WHereas vpon a petition heeretofore exhibited to this Bord by the Engliſh Marchants of London, trading Spaine, and other places for ſweet wines, concerning an allowance to bee made vnto them for leakage, it was thought fit after diuers hearings of the cauſe, to order, That there ſhould be an allowance made vnto them of 12 in the 100. by his Maieſties Farmers, of the impoſt of ſuch ſweet wines as they brought into the port of London, as by the ſayd order more at large appeareth.

And whereas the Marchant ſtrangers of the City of London, are in like manner, ſutors to the Bord, for an allowance to bee made vnto them for leakeage, according as heeretofore hath alwayes beene vſed, being otherwiſe hardly able to driue a trade in that commodity, in regard of the double Subſidie, buttleridge, and other duties which they pay for thoſe wines, whereof the Engliſh, are altogether freed and exempted; Their Lordſhips hauing conſidered aſwell of their petition, as the anſwer thereunto made by his Maieſties Farmer, and being informed, That they haue alwaies had the ſame allowance heeretofore for leakage, as hath beene made vnto the Engliſh: and that in regard of the double ſubſedies and buttleridge, which they pay, the proportion of difference will ſtill hold to the aduantage of the natiue Marchants; It is therefore this day ordered, That his Maieſties Farmer of the impoſt of ſweet wines, ſhall make the like allowance of 12 in the 100 of the old impoſt and ſubſidie onely, for leakage of ſuch wines contayned in his Leaſe, as ſhall bee brought into this kingdome by the ſayd Marchant ſtrangers, in ſuch manner and forme as is made vnto the Engliſh marchants: And it is likewiſe ordered, That ſuch Caske as is out end for end, or left for fraught, ſhalbe likewiſe allowed vnto them. Prouided neuertheleſſe, That for ſuch ſweet wines as are brought into this Realme by the ſayd merchants, either out of France, or the Low Countreyes, allowance is to be made of 5 in the 100 as in former times hath beene vſed. And it is alſo ordered for the auoyding of any further difference in this behalfe, That the ſayd Marchants do fill no wines on boord after they come into this Realme. Sunday the 15. of Nouember, 1612.

Lord Archbiſhop of Canterbury. Lord Chancellour. Duke of Lennox. Lord Admirall. Lord Chamberlaine.
Earle of Worceſter. Earle of Pembroke. Lord Priuie Seale. Lord Wootton. Lord Stanhop. Lord Knolles.
Sir Iohn Harbert. Sir Iulius Ceſar.

¶ *The copy of a Letter to Sir Iohn Swinnerton Knight, then L. Maior of London.*

WEe did not expect to haue found ſuch difficulty in your Lordſhip, in ſubmitting your ſelfe to the Order lately made on the behalfe of Marchant ſtrangers, concerning the leakage of ſweet wines, being done vpon ſo iuſt grounds, and agreeable to the vſage of former times, and that with as much indifferency and reſpect to your Lo. as the cauſe would beare: but foraſmuch as the ſayd Marchants are much damnified in ſuch wines as are now ready to be diſcharged in that port of London, and cannot bee landed but by order from your Lordſhip, We doe heereby require you for the auoyding of any further preiudice therein, to ſigne ſuch warrants as ſhalbe meet for the landing of the ſayd wines, vpon ſecurity giuen by them for payment of ſuch dueties as are due vpon the ſame, wherin we haue thought meet likewiſe to mooue your Lordſhip, not to ſtand too ſtrictly vpon ſecurity they ſhall offer, in reſpect they may be ſtrangers, otherwiſe knowne to bee ſufficient for the ſame. And ſo expecting due performance heereof, without further trouble to this Bord, we bid you &c. Sunday the 23. of Nouember. 1612.

Lord priuie Seale. Lord Chamberlaine. Earle of Worceſter. Lord Zouch. Lord Wootton. Sir Iulius Ceſar.